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National Film Board of Canada / Office national du film du Canada

Pacific Centre
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November 22, 1990

Prof. Maria Beatriz Rocha Trindade
Director,
Centro de Anthropologia Cultural e Social
Avenida da Ilha da Madeira
P-1400 Lisboa
Portugal

cc: Henri Campagnolo
Elaine Briere

Dear Professor Trindade,

I wrote to Dr Pereira earlier this year on behalf of Elaine Briere to enquire about the possibilities of acquiring copies of some film materials and still photographs made by Ruy Cinatti in East Timor. What I wanted to find out was whether it was possible to get copies of these materials, what problems might exist for this to happen, what the cost would be and whether we could get a VHS tape of the film material to preview it.

Elaine Briere is a photographer who spent some time in East Timor during the early 1970's. She travelled throughout the country, living with the people and she became enchanted with their way of life. She became sharply aware of how our "Civilized" culture had become estranged and alienated from the more basic rythyms of nature and the beauty therein. When Indonesia invaded and annexed East Timor illegally, Elaine was at first saddened, then angered and she was motivated to try to find some justice for the Timorese. For many years now she has worked towards this effort and her photographs of East Timor have been shown in many different countries to increase awareness of this tragedy.

Elaine came to the National Film Board of Canada to see if it was possible to make or recieve assistance to make a film that would show the beauty of the East Timorese culture and to highlight the conflict between the "Primitive" and "Civilized" worlds. It is her view that we, in the so-called "Civilized" world, can learn a lot from these Primitive cultures.

I liked her ideas and her photographs are evocative and beautiful. But it became apparent that she would need more material for the film than just these. She wants the film to show the complexities of the society and there is little available visual material for this, with the exception of your collection of Ruy Cinatti's wonderful work.

Currently we are still researching and shaping the potential of the film. If you could get back to me regarding the film and photographic materials you have I would be most grateful. If the film material has not been archived (has had duplicate negatives made), it might be possible for us to underwrite the cost of doing this which would be advantageous to your institution.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Svend-Erik Eriksen
Producer.

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